

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Divisional Application of  
U.S. Appln. No. 10/131,091

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended): A silicon carbide powder produced by [[the]] a method of ~~producing a silicon carbide powder according to claim 1 comprising sintering a mixture containing at least a silicon source and a carbon source, wherein the carbon source is a xylene-based resin.~~

14. (Original): The silicon carbide powder according to claim 13, wherein the nitrogen content is 100ppm or less.

15. (Original): The silicon carbide powder according to claim 13, wherein the nitrogen content is 50ppm or less.

16. (Original): The silicon carbide powder according to claim 13 wherein the content of impurity elements is 0.3 ppm or less.

17. (Original): The silicon carbide powder according to claim 13, wherein the volume-average particle size ( $D_{50}$ ) is 1 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18. (Original): The silicon carbide powder according to claim 13, wherein the particle size distribution ( $D_{90}/D_{10}$ ) is 4 or less.